

PROMOTIONS FROM THE RANKS UNSUCCESSFUL IN PRACTICE

British Admiralty Contemplates Granting Commissions to Deserving Petty Officers.

Although two distinguished admirals, Sir Edward Fremantle and Sir John Hopkins, have endorsed the bill which Lord Selbourne, as head of the English navy department, is about to submit to parliament providing for the annual grant of a certain number of commissions to petty and warrant officers, the project is certain to meet with opposition. The opposition is expected to come from before the mast, rather than from the quarterdeck.

The scheme appeals to those democratic tendencies which progress and enlightenment are developing even in the minds of the aristocracy and royalty of the Old World. It is doubtful, however, whether it will be popular with the very class of men for whose benefit it is devised, and whom it is intended to encourage. In fact, it promises to prove just as difficult to operate with any degree of satisfaction or success in the marine as in the military forces of the empire.

Unsuccessful in the Army.

It has been tried in the English army, and the results have not been such as to encourage the application of these methods of promotion to the navy. In the first place the men resent subjection to the orders of one who is not in their eyes to the manner born, who belongs to the same plane in the social system as themselves, and who, realizing that his social status is questioned by those under his command, is apt to treat them with more hauteur, stiffness and even severity than the officer who is known to have blue blood in his veins.

The aristocrat can afford to be genial and familiar with his men without exposing himself to any risk that they would take undue advantage thereof in a manner detrimental to the interests of discipline. The officer, however, who has been promoted from the ranks, and who is a gentleman by training rather than by birth, is differently situated.

In order to maintain the respect due to his military rank, he is compelled to hold aloof from all intimacy and good fellowship with his former comrades, which, if encouraged, would quickly lead them to forget the respect due to his grade in the army. Moreover, having served in the ranks, he is acquainted with all the shortcomings of his former

messmates, and therefore certain to have a keener insight into the failings of the men and less indulgence in dealing with them than the officer who has received his commission on joining the army.

In illustration attention is called to instances of exaggerated punishment and of maltreatment of soldiers in the German and French armies which have invited the attention of the military authorities at Berlin and at Paris, as well as of the public in recent years. The guilty parties have in every instance been noncommissioned officers, that is to say, men belonging to the same social sphere as their victims.

So thoroughly is this condition of affairs appreciated in Germany, recognized as possessing the finest military organization in the world, that it is rare that a corporal or a sergeant receives promotion to the rank of commissioned officer. If they receive the epaulet, it is generally on the understanding that it involves transfer from the army to the constabulary.

Von Moltke's Opinion.

No one was more firm in his conviction that the officers of the army should be recruited exclusively from the upper classes of society than the famous Field Marshal Count von Moltke. He declared, when Gladstone abolished, in 1870, the system of disposing of commissions in the army by sale that England had "given up what was best in her military establishment." His idea was that the change involved the abandonment of the method by which the selection of officers had been restricted to the gentry.

This view of the greatest master of the art of war of the nineteenth century applies just as much to the navy as to the army. There have been some instances in the past where deserving petty officers of the English navy have been advanced to the rank of lieutenant as a reward for long and meritorious service. But they have in no instance proved a success, failing to command the good will or the respect of the men before the mast. After a brief experience they have either been placed on the retired list or else transferred to the coast guard department.

So far this explains only the opposition of the rank and file to the plan of granting commissions to petty and warrant officers. Added to the difficulty experienced by the men thus promoted is that of maintaining the regard and good will of their men, indispensable to their efficiency as commanders. For wherever an officer is out of touch with those under his orders and is unable to rely upon their cordial and loyal co-operation, the service invariably suffers.

Another View of Case.

There is another aspect of the case, namely, the relations of the officers promoted from the ranks with those who have received their commissions on first

Experiences of the Armies and Navies of the World Against Project—Opposition From the Men.

joining. In the English navy, as has just been stated, the cases of promotion of this kind have been so few and the officers in question have so soon either retired or been transferred to a berth ashore, that it is difficult to speak from experience.

But the English army furnishes quite a number of illustrations which may be applied to the marine forces of the empire. This does not refer to the so-called "gentlemen rankers," mostly young fellows of good families and of means who have enlisted as privates after having failed at the competitive examinations for commissions, with the object of eventually becoming officers by means of promotion. Nor is reference made to those honorary commissions granted on their retirement to riding masters, hand masters, etc., in order to enable them to enjoy in private life the prestige and status of a lieutenant.

But the officers here discussed are those who, of humble birth and without any exceptional advantages of education, have won a commission by some gallant deed or by long and meritorious service. There is one notable exception in Gen. Sir Hector MacDonald, who started life as an errand boy in a village shop in Scotland, was a sentry outside the tent of King Edward when the latter visited India as Prince of Wales twenty-seven years ago, and who is now a general commanding one of the military districts in India—a typical Scotchman, of rare force of character. The position of the officers promoted from the ranks, with this exception, has been one not only painful to themselves, but likewise to their messmates, no matter how kindly the latter may have been disposed toward them.

It is rare that an officer of a regiment would voluntarily do anything to make a comrade promoted from the ranks feel that he did not enjoy the advantages of birth and of education. In the instances of officers thus promoted that have come under notice, they have been treated with the utmost consideration and delicacy by their comrades.

They themselves, however, are the first to feel that they belong to a different social sphere, to a different caste, that not only their birth, but likewise their entire training, have been of a different character; that they are unable to see matters from the same point of view as those among whom their lot is cast, and that they have neither the same tastes nor the same prejudices, nor yet the same advantages of education. The consequence is that they are never at ease,

but constrained, reserved, and uncongenial; discouraging, perhaps unintentionally, the advances made toward them.

When they happen to be married, or even if they have relatives visiting them, the situation becomes still more difficult. As a rule, the wives of the officers of a regiment form, so to speak, a clique or set of their own, like some big family, and it is not always possible to introduce with success into such a little world as this a woman devoid of the advantages of birth and breeding.

The result of all this is that when an officer has risen from the ranks, he seldom remains for any length of time with his regiment, but soon seeks some separate assignment which will have the effect of enabling him to get away from his fellow-officers and from their families, condemned in that case to lead a life yet more solitary, since his rank as a commissioned officer and the care which he is obliged to exercise to discourage any familiarity on the part of the men under his command compel him to refrain from holding with them anything but strictly official intercourse.

American Officer's Views.

An argument, uncharitable and unkindly, but true, was put forward a couple of years ago by an American flag officer, now dead, against the promotion of a warrant officer to the rank of lieutenant in the navy. In the marine forces of the United States, as in those of Great Britain, the epaulets of an officer have until now been accepted, both at home and abroad, as an assurance that the wearer was a gentleman of birth, breeding, and education, and he has been welcomed as such as such on the strength of this.

The epaulet will cease to constitute a passport if it becomes known that it is granted to men promoted from before the mast, and who do not have that which is the real basis of the respect of the world nor yet that breeding which one is accustomed to look for in every one of the cavalier officers of Uncle Sam and of John Bull.

While there are many officers of the reserve forces on the Continent of bourgeois birth who owe their commissions to the fact that they were able, as graduates of the national schools, to limit their obligatory military service to the term of one year, and at the end of that time to pass an examination as an officer of the reserve force, yet there are at the present moment extremely few officers in any of the Continental armies of humble origin who may be described as having been promoted from the ranks.

In Germany, Austria, and, in fact, all over the Continent, the officers who have adopted soldiering as a profession and who form part of the standing army, are as a rule men of birth and education. This is especially the case in Germany.

In France, too, the old saying about each private having in his knapsack the baton of a field marshal can no longer be said to apply to the conditions of the present time. The officers of the standing army are nearly every one of them graduates of St. Cyr and other military colleges, and today more than ever in republican France, as in monarchical Germany, the educational and also social qualifications of commanding officers are required to be of such a high order as to render altogether inexpedient the practice in vogue during the first half of the nineteenth century of "promotion from the ranks."

EX-ATTACHE.

For Four Hours Only 10% Tomorrow 10% At The Palais Royal.

The question now is to avoid the overcrowding of the busy afternoon hours. Tomorrow morning, from 8 o'clock until midday, all purchases of \$1 and more will be subject to a discount of 10 per cent. The few items given below will give an idea of the low prices already marked on goods suitable for Christmas Presents.

EXTRA! EXTRA!

Almost half price for ladies' pocketbooks. Thousands of them, surplus holidays stocks, lately from the factories of the two leading makers of the United States, the makers who supply the exclusive leather goods and high-class jewelry stores.

75¢	98¢	\$1.69	\$2.49	\$2.98	\$3.98
(\$1.50 values.)	(\$2 values.)	(\$3 values.)	(\$4.50 values.)	(\$6 values.)	(\$8 values.)

Gentlemen are interested—a lady's pocketbook makes a most acceptable Christmas present, especially if her name is inside. We undertake to stamp the name in gold free, and quote the above astonishingly little prices for very best of goods.

Fine Handkerchiefs Cheap

35¢	50¢	75¢	\$1
(50¢ value.)	(75¢ value.)	(\$1 value.)	(\$1.25 value.)

The importer's odd dozens and half dozens, giving choice of over one hundred different styles. Bought and offered at considerably less than usual prices. All with the very latest style lace borders and hemstitched borders with inside embroidery.



Suitably boxed for presentation free of extra charge.

Fourth Floor.

The remaining Holiday Picture stock of the Union Art Company, New York, is being distributed on this fourth floor. \$2.50 to \$15 buys Pictures sold from \$5 to \$25 at the art stores. They are Art Store Pictures at half the usual prices. Take elevator to fourth floor. Come early.



Etchings, \$1.69.

These are worthy enough to bear the artist's signature—they are proof etchings—intended for an art store. The 17x22 frames, richly burnished and finished with Florentine corners, are alone worth \$2; the etchings are a bargain at \$3. You get five dollars' worth for \$1.69.

59c for Choice

Etchings, Photo Colors, Black and White Effects and other subjects in square and round frames. Also hunting scenes in combination frames, 15x42 inches; \$1.50 at the art stores, as investigation will conclusively demonstrate.

Free!

In order to encourage an early selection of Christmas presents any purchaser of goods in any department to the amount of \$2 is entitled to life-size crayon FREE. Specimens of the work done are here. Take elevator to fourth floor.

29c for Choice

Photo Colors, Water Color Effects, Platinotypes, etc., in gilt and black frames, 11x14 and 10x18 inches. The frames are worth considerably more than 29c. The pictures are neither commonplace nor cheap-looking.

More Gloves.

\$1.75 for the new Washable Kid Gloves—the kind women have been sighing for ever since kid gloves were worn.
\$1.35 for \$1.50 value Heavy Cape Tan Gloves, made in imitation of Fowne's famous gloves. They look worth twice \$1. Fitted at our risk.
59¢ for usual \$1 Glace Kid Gloves. All sizes, in black, white, and all shades. Busy days, these—will not be fitted at the special price.

Book News.

86c

For \$1.50 Copyrights

The well-known \$1.50 cloth-bound editions of popular favorites, some of which are mentioned below:
Alice of Old Vincennes, When Knighthood Was in Flower, Santa Claus's Partner, Gentleman From Indiana, The Crisis, The Right of Way, The Sky Pilot.

Lamp News.

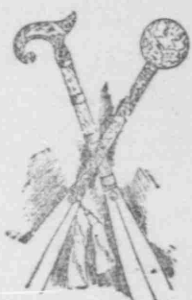
Tomorrow is to be "Lamp Day," with special prices to attract you to the basement floor.
\$1.25 Nickel Sewing Lamps, center draft burner and colored shade.
98c Hanging Bell Lamps, wrought iron frames and 25c sorted shades.
\$1.98 Nickel Table Lamps, center draft burner, complete with \$1.39 dome shade.
\$2.50 Decorated Parlor Lamps, brass trimmed, Success burner, globe to match.
\$4.50 Red Parlor Lamps, brass trimmed, center draft \$3.49 burner.



Men's and Ladies' Umbrellas

\$3.88	\$2.88	\$1.89	79c
(\$5 value.)	(\$4 value.)	(\$3 value.)	(\$2 value.)

The trade is all supplied—and we get this maker's few hundred surplus Holiday Umbrellas as stated above. The handles range from the severely plain to the most elaborate. Initials will be carved or engraved free—the same as if usual prices were asked.



\$2 Dresses for 98c.

Children's School Dresses of pretty and wear-resisting mixtures with trimmings of plain color cashmere, braid and buttons. Lined throughout. Sizes 4 to 14 years. The picture is one of them.

\$2.89 for \$3.50 value All-Wool Hand-made Cloth Coats, box front and back. Large collar, fur braid, and ribbon trimmed. Lined and interlined. Size 1 to 7 years.

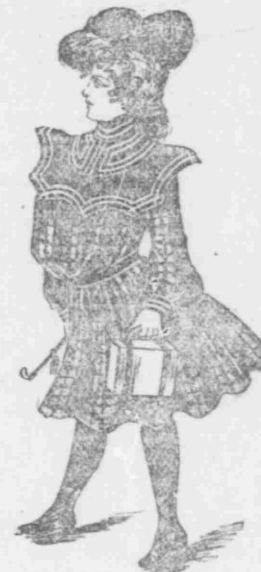
\$1.98 for Baby's \$2.48 value's Flannel Short Lamb's Wool Coats, with deep pointed collar, fur and ribbon trimmed. White, pink, and blue. Sizes 4 months to 3 years.

\$1 Dolls for 79c.

Let us tell you the worst about them. It's this—kid-body dolls don't sell as well as the others. Otherwise they are like the dolls with papier mache bodies. 75c instead of \$1—for the longest lasting dolls.

48c for better-than-the-best 50c Doll ever before seen in Washington. Biggest, prettiest—the every way best.

39c for Beaded Chatelaine Bags for girls—the small edition of the bag mamma wears, and for which she has to pay about \$2.
21c for Boys' Henty Books, and 90c for girls' \$1.25 Elsie Books is good news. So open and shut. Boy Dolls and Girl Dolls.



COUPON 1.

This Palais Royal Coupon and 10c entitles bearer to one Catholic Prayer Book and one Carved Bone Rosary. Good for Monday only, December 15, 1902.

COUPON 2.

This Palais Royal Coupon and 10c entitles bearer to one set of Tuck's Patent Dressing Dolls—one doll and four costumes. Good for Monday only, December 15, 1902.

COFFEE.

On basement floor—The broken beans from 24c, 33c, and 38c Empress Coffee, at 25c for 2-pound packages. Library Coupon in every package.

Palais Royal, A. LISNER, G & 11th Sts.

THE STORE FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

OVER 1,500 Designs in Gilt American CLOCKS
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OF EVERY DESCRIPTION FROM \$1.25 UP.

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Handsome Gilt Clocks, 15 inches high,
guaranteed for one year,
Regular Price, \$6, for
\$4.00.

OUR ELEGANT STOCK OF DIAMONDS,

Sunbursts, Rings, Lockets, Charms, Scarf Pins, Studs, Sleeve Buttons, and other Jewelry is so complete that I can furnish you with full-cut Diamonds for as little as \$1 or as high as \$1,000. The settings are the newest and most artistic to be found.

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in Gun Metal, Sterling Silver, and Solid Gold Cases, including Split Second Chronographs, ranging in price from

\$2.50 to \$500.

A majority of the above-mentioned goods are MANUFACTURED on my premises, and consequently I am able to quote much lower prices than ordinary jewelers. I do not exaggerate when I say that in most cases I can save you as much as 50 per cent. Isn't this worth inquiring into? You had better make your selection of Christmas gifts this week, and have your purchases reserved. Next week we shall be so busy that it will be almost impossible to wait on everybody as we would wish.

WE SHALL BE OPEN EVERY EVENING UNTIL XMAS.

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